



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the
NH Department of Environmental Services

July 2010

The Municipal EcoLink, is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well.

Revised Sanitary Survey Rules for Public Water Systems

Revised rules governing inspections of public water systems (PWS), also known as sanitary surveys, will be in place before the end of July. The rules previously in Env-Ws 303.05 and Env-Ws 306 have been consolidated as Env-Dw 720. State and federal laws require DES to periodically conduct a detailed on-site inspection of PWS to evaluate the adequacy of source(s), water quality, storage facilities, equipment, and operation and maintenance procedures to produce and distribute safe drinking water. The new rules clarify the responsibilities for PWS and for DES relative to entry and inspection of PWS facilities, and clarify post-inspection notice and follow-up requirements. A revised list of conditions identified during a sanitary survey that would constitute a significant deficiency also is included in the new rules. The rules will be available from DES at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/index.htm#adopted>

Winnepesaukee River Basin Program Proposes Amendments to Rules; Public Hearing, July 29

DES has initiated a rulemaking proceeding to readopt with amendments, the rules governing the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP), which is responsible for the state-owned wastewater treatment facility serving the communities of Center Harbor, Moultonborough, Meredith, Gilford, Laconia, Belmont, Sanbornton, Tilton, Northfield and Franklin. The existing rules include sewer use rules, charges and billing procedures, industrial pretreatment requirements, commercial discharge requirements, and provisions relating to enforcement and notice of violations. The rules are proposed to be readopted with amendments, primarily to implement recent changes to federal requirements. The proposed amendments also clarify the process by which the WRBP assesses and apportions charges to the users of the facility; add definitions for, and restrict the discharge of, certain medical, infectious, pharmaceutical, and radiological wastes; and make several non-substantive changes to the language and organization of the rule for purposes of clarity. The **public hearing** on the proposed rules is scheduled for Thursday, July 29 at 2 pm, in Room 1 of the WRBP Operations building at 528 River Street, Franklin. The deadline for submission of written comments is 4 pm, August 9, 2010. The proposed rules are available at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/index.htm#proposed>

Municipalities Have Authority to Implement Water Use Restrictions

Although New Hampshire is not formally under a drought declaration at this time, the lower than average precipitation in April and May coupled with the current heat spell is reason enough to conserve water and moderate water usage. Municipal and privately-owned public water systems have had the authority to implement water use restrictions for water system customers under RSA 38:26. Water systems with potential water supply shortages have often restricted or banned residential lawn watering to ensure an adequate water supply is maintained. For model regulation for lawn watering restrictions, please see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/documents/mo-lawn-watering-rstrctn.pdf

State Continues Geological Mapping Project

The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) continues to survey the geology underlying the topographic map quadrangle that encompasses all or parts of the towns of Ashland, Center Harbor, Cornish, Deering, Franconia, Greenville, Henniker, Hillsborough, Holderness, Lebanon, Lyndeborough, Mason, Meredith, Moultonborough, New Boston, New Hampton, New Ipswich, Plainfield, Temple, Weare and Wilton. For more information on the geologic mapping program, go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/gsu/index.htm>

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